

PROJECT OVERVIEW	
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Name of Project:	Should we make cuts?		Duration: 2 weeks
Subject/Course: Social Studies		Teacher(s): Jacinta Menezes	Grade Level: 3
Other subject areas to be included, if any:	Math		

Project Idea Summary of the issue, challenge, investigation, scenario, or problem:	Students will learn the different branches of government and research which branch of legislature is best to send a letter of concern to get their voices heard in the government. Concern is government is taking funding away from the education department. This results in schools laying teachers off and schools are closing. This is resulting to larger class sizes and schools becoming over crowded. The students will develop an opinion with that making cuts in education is good or bad. Given a budget they will then have to make a decision where the funding will go to and present a proposal to legislature.
Driving Question	How can we inform the government about our opinion about money (funding) for schools?
Content and Skills Standards to be addressed:	<p>Social Studies Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and government -Learning key terms and concepts related to government, understanding the branches of government.</p> <p>Math Standard</p>

		T+A	E		T+A	E
21st Century Skills to be explicitly <i>taught and assessed</i> (T+A) or that will be <i>encouraged</i> (E) by project work, but not taught or assessed:	Collaboration		y	Other:		
	Presentation	y				
	Critical Thinking:		y			

			Presentation Audience:	
Culminating Products and Performances	Group:	Write a persuasive letter or offer a petition To adapt their position about school funding to convince the government that we should/ should not have cuts in the schools. A budget proposal will be included with their persuasive letter or petition.	Class:	y
			School:	
			Community:	
			Experts:	

	Individual:		Web:	
			Other:	

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Entry event to launch inquiry, engage students:	Have a congressman write a letter informing the students about the deficit in government funding for education. He is asking the students to create a proposal with the budget to be sent to Washington D.C. for their approval. A video will be shown in what is happening to the schools in our community.				
Assessments	Formative Assessments (During Project)	Quizzes/Tests		Practice Presentations	y
		Journal/Learning Log		Notes	
		Preliminary Plans/Outlines/Prototypes		Checklists	
		Rough Drafts	y	Concept Maps	
		Online Tests/Exams		Other:	
	Summative Assessments (End of Project)	Written Product(s), with rubric: _____	y	Other Product(s) or Performance(s), with rubric: _____	y
		Oral Presentation, with rubric	y	Peer Evaluation	
		Multiple Choice/Short Answer Test		Self-Evaluation	
		Essay Test		Other:	
Resources Needed	On-site people, facilities:				
	Equipment:	Computer, Social Studies Textbook			
	Materials:				
	Community resources:				
Reflection		Journal/Learning Log	y	Focus Group	y

Methods	(Individual, Group, and/or Whole Class)	Whole-Class Discussion	y	Fishbowl Discussion	
		Survey		Other:	

PROJECT TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDE

Project: Should We Make Cuts?		Course/Semester: Social Studies/ Third Semester	
Knowledge and Skills Needed by Students to successfully complete culminating products and performances, and do well on summative assessments		Scaffolding / Materials / Lessons to be Provided by the project teacher, other teachers, experts, mentors, community members	
Use a KWL to understand terms presented in the letter.		Charts created and terms will be discussed.	
Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding how a budget is created and proposed. Understanding what is going on now on the budget cuts. 		Website use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.tmea.org/027_Magazine/Advocacy_To_Toolk/Understand_Budget_r.htm http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9FP8AH00.htm http://www.wnyc.org/news/articles/155041 	
General Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Government? What are the branches of government? What are the roles in each branch? What are the categories in the education budget? 		Research Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Useful website for student base learning: http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/index.html http://www.voteutah.org/learning/government/three_branches.html 	
Collaboration Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we, as a group work effectively as a team and decide what amount should go to the education budget? 		Collaboration Rubric Review	
Presentation Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we share our decision with others and 		Presentation Rubric Review	

persuade them this is the best choice?



PROJECT CALENDAR

Project: Should We Make Cuts?

Start Date:

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

PROJECT WEEK ONE

Share Entry Event
Review Driving Question.
Review Directions for group project.

Reader's Workshop
Determine the importance of government and the different branches.

Begin KWL Chart.

Researcher's Workshop
Generate research question about the branches of government.

Reader's Workshop
Determine the importance of government and the different branches.

Reader's Workshop
Determine the importance of government and the different branches.

Reader's Workshop
Determine the importance of government and the different branches.

Reader's Workshop
Understanding the categories of an education budget.

PROJECT WEEK TWO

Reader's Workshop
Understanding the categories of an education budget.

Form Expert Groups
Group Collaboration Workshop – Create project contracts.

Group Collaboration Workshop – Review a previous year budget.

Group Collaboration Workshop – Create a budget with a given amount and budget categories.

Group Collaboration Workshop – Create a budget with a given amount and budget categories.

Writing Workshop – Create a persuasive letter based on their decision

PROJECT WEEK THREE

Writing Workshop – Create a persuasive letter based on their decision

Writing Workshop – Create a persuasive letter based on their decision - Revise

Presentation Workshop – Preparing for Presentation

Presentation Workshop – Dress Rehearsal

Presentations to the Parents acting as the Legislature.

